

October 10, 2013

Colorado WIC Open in October, Participants Reassured

The Colorado Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is assuring participants that whatever the duration of the federal shutdown, the impacts are temporary.

“We are hearing that participants are concerned about the future of WIC,” said Patricia Daniluk, Nutrition Services Branch Director for the Prevention Services Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). “I want to assure participants who are worried to stay optimistic that our services will resume once this is over.”

Local WIC clinics throughout Colorado remain open for October, benefits continue to be issued and retailers are accepting October WIC benefits checks. The status for November remains uncertain and if the federal shutdown continues into November, clinics may close and November benefit checks may not be accepted at stores.

“While we do not know how long the federal shutdown will last, this is temporary and I feel eventually there will be resolution,” Daniluk said. “When that happens, WIC services and benefits will resume so hang on to WIC checks you have now and continue to keep your October WIC appointments.”

The Colorado WIC office continues to monitor funding during the federal shutdown, and has asked local WIC clinics not to issue November benefits until sufficient funding can be assured.

In the meantime, the Colorado WIC office has these tips for participants:

- DO NOT destroy any WIC checks that you already have. You may still be able to cash them.
- **Keep your October WIC appointment.**
- **You can still purchase foods with your October WIC checks.**
- WIC Alerts on www.ColoradoWIC.com is the place to go for up to date information, including when you can cash your checks at the grocery store.
- If you and your family need food:
 - Check with your county’s SNAP Program (Food Stamps). Enroll if you are eligible.
 - Access information about charitable food assistance through Hunger Free Colorado’s Hunger Free (toll free) Hotline: (855) 855-4626
 - Call the Colorado Family Health Line at (800) 688-7777 to learn about other health services available to you and your family

The funds to support WIC operation in October come from savings from the previous fiscal year and a small amount of contingency funds provided today from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Please continue to check this WIC Alerts page on the www.ColoradoWIC.com website for the most current information.